

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 remain in this application. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 have been amended.

In the Office Action dated October 24, 2003, the Examiner acknowledged that claims 3-6 are directed to allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner objected to such claims as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Pursuant to the present amendment, Applicant has included the limitations of dependent claim 5 (deemed allowable) into independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 of the present application, as amended, is now in allowable form. Moreover, given that claims 2-4 and 6-9 of the present application all depend from independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that all such dependent claims should be deemed allowable as well.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant respectfully submits that no fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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